

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information collecting apparatus comprising:
 - a network connecting unit which connects to a network;
 - 5 an event collecting destination site registering unit which registers event collecting destination sites for detecting the presence or absence of an event which occurred on the network or in the real world;
 - 10 an information collecting destination site registering unit which registers information collecting destination sites for collecting documents including data such as text, image, audio sound, and the like;
 - 15 an event detecting unit which obtains information from said registered event collecting destination sites and detects the presence or absence of the occurrence of the event from the presence or absence of an update of the obtained information;
 - 20 a keyword extracting unit which extracts one or more keywords from an updating area detected by said event detecting unit;
 - an information searching unit which searches the documents in said registered information
 - 25 collecting destination sites by using the keyword extracted by said keyword extracting unit; and
 - an information notifying unit which notifies

the user of a search result of said information
searching unit.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said
5 event detecting unit accesses said event collecting
destination site, downloads the document in said site,
stores it as a reference, thereafter, detects the
presence or absence of the event occurrence from the
presence or absence of the update by comparing the
10 document downloaded from said event collecting
destination site with said reference, and updates
said reference by using said downloaded document.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said
15 information searching unit accesses said information
collecting destination site, downloads the document
in said site, and searches a corresponding document
portion by using said keyword from the downloaded
document.

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4. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further
comprising a document storing unit which stores the
document obtained from said information collecting
destination site by said information searching unit.

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5. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said
information searching unit periodically searches the

documents in said registered information collecting destination sites for a predetermined period of time by using the keyword extracted by said keyword extracting unit.

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6. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
said event collecting destination site
registering unit obtains the event collecting
destination site from an event collecting destination
10 list server via the network and registers it, and
said information collecting destination site
registering unit obtains the information collecting
destination site from an information collecting
destination list server via the network and registers
15 it.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein
said event collecting destination site
registering unit obtains event collecting destination
20 sites from another information collecting apparatus
having the same construction via the network and
registers them, and
said information collecting destination site
registering unit obtains information collecting
25 destination sites from the information collecting
apparatus having the same construction via the
network and registers them.

8. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said keyword extracting unit morpheme-analyzes the updating area detected by said event detecting unit,
5 divides it every part of speech, thereafter, extracts only proper nouns, and if the extracted nouns are different from existing keywords registered in a keyword database, outputs the extracted proper nouns as keywords to said information searching unit.

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9. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein if only new information has been added to the updating area of the event collecting destination site in which the event occurrence has been detected, said
15 event detecting unit stores a history of said new information, and if old information was deleted simultaneously with the addition of the new information to said updating area, said event detecting unit stores the history of said new
20 information and a history of said deleted information and said information notifying unit is enabled to notify the user of the stored histories.

10. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein if
25 only new information has been added to the updating area of the event collecting destination site in which the event occurrence has been detected, said

event detecting unit stores the keyword extracted by
said keyword extracting unit as a history of said new
information, and if old information was deleted
simultaneously with the addition of the new
5 information to said updating area, said event
detecting unit stores the keyword extracted by said
keyword extracting unit as a history of said new
information and a history of said deleted information
and said information notifying unit is enabled to
10 notify the user of said keyword as stored histories.

11. An information collecting method comprising:
an event collecting destination site
registering step wherein event collecting destination
15 sites for detecting the presence or absence of an
event occurring on a network or in the real world are
registered by an event collecting destination site
registering unit;

an information collecting destination site
20 registering step wherein information collecting
destination sites for collecting documents including
data such as text, image, audio sound, and the like
are registered by an information collecting
destination site registering unit;

25 an event detecting step wherein information is
obtained from said registered event collecting
destination sites and the presence or absence of

event occurrence is detected by an event detecting unit on the basis of the presence or absence of update of the obtained information;

5 a keyword extracting step wherein one or more keywords are extracted by a keyword extracting unit from an updating area detected in said event detecting step;

10 an information searching step wherein the documents in said registered information collecting destination sites are searched by an information searching unit by using the keyword extracted in said keyword extracting step; and

15 an information notifying step wherein the user is notified of a search result of said information searching step by an information notifying unit.

12. A method according to Claim 11, wherein in said event detecting step, said event collecting destination site is accessed, the document in said site is downloaded and stored as a reference, and thereafter, the presence or absence of the event occurrence is detected from the presence or absence of the update by comparing the document downloaded from said event collecting destination site with said
25 reference.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein in said

information searching step, said information
collecting destination site is accessed, the document
in said site is downloaded, and a corresponding
document portion is searched by using said keyword
5 from the downloaded document.

14. A method according to Claim 11, further
comprising a document storing step wherein the
document obtained from said information collecting
10 destination site by said information searching step
is stored into a document storing unit.

15. A method according to Claim 11, wherein in said
information searching step, the number of searching
15 times of the document search using said keyword is
counted, if the number of searching times of the
document after the elapse of a predetermined time
exceeds a predetermined threshold value, the
information search of the document by said keyword is
20 again continued for a predetermined period of time,
and if the number of searching times is equal to or
less than said threshold value, the information
search of the document by said keyword is stopped.

25 16. A method according to Claim 11, wherein
in said event collecting destination site
registering step, the event collecting destination

site is obtained from an event collecting destination list server via the network and registered, and

in said information collecting destination site registering step, the information collecting
5 destination site is obtained from an information collecting destination list server via the network and registered.

17. A method according to Claim 11, wherein
10 in said event collecting destination site registering step, event collecting destination sites are obtained from another information collecting apparatus having the same construction via the network and registered, and

15 in said information collecting destination site registering step, information collecting destination sites are obtained from the information collecting apparatus having the same construction via the network and registered.

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18. A method according to Claim 11, wherein in said keyword extracting step, the updating area detected in said event detecting step is morpheme-analyzed and divided every part of speech, thereafter, only proper
25 nouns are extracted, and if the extracted nouns are different from existing keywords registered in a keyword database, the extracted proper nouns are

outputted as keywords to said information searching step.

19. A method according to Claim 11, wherein in said
5 event detecting step, if only new information has
been added to the updating area of the event
collecting destination site in which the event
occurrence has been detected, a history of said new
information is stored, and if old information was
10 deleted simultaneously with the addition of the new
information to said updating area, the history of
said new information and a history of said deleted
information are stored and said information notifying
unit is enabled to notify the user of the stored
15 histories.

20. A method according to Claim 11, wherein in said
event detecting step, if only new information has
been added to the updating area of the event
20 collecting destination site in which the event
occurrence has been detected, the keyword extracted
in said keyword extracting step is stored as a
history of said new information, and if old
information was deleted simultaneously with the
25 addition of the new information to said updating area,
the keyword extracted by said keyword extracting unit
is stored as a history of said new information and a

history of said deleted information and said information notifying unit is enabled to notify the user of said keyword as stored histories.

- 5 21. A program for allowing a computer to execute:
 an event collecting destination site
registering step wherein event collecting destination
sites for detecting the presence or absence of an
event occurring on a network or in the real world are
10 registered;
 an information collecting destination site
registering step wherein information collecting
destination sites for collecting documents including
data such as text, image, audio sound, and the like
15 are registered;
 an event detecting step wherein information is
obtained from said registered event collecting
destination sites and the presence or absence of
event occurrence is detected on the basis of the
20 presence or absence of update of the obtained
information;
 a keyword extracting step wherein one or more
keywords are extracted from an updating area detected
in said event detecting step;
25 an information searching step wherein the
documents in said registered information collecting
destination sites are searched by using the keyword

extracted in said keyword extracting step; and

an information notifying step wherein the user is notified of a search result of said information searching step.

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22. A program according to Claim 21, wherein said event detecting step, said event collecting destination site is accessed, the document in said site is downloaded and stored as a reference, and
10 thereafter, the presence or absence of the event occurrence is detected from the presence or absence of the update by comparing the document downloaded from said event collecting destination site with said reference.

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23. A program according to Claim 21, wherein in said information searching step, said information collecting destination site is accessed, the document in said site is downloaded, and a corresponding
20 document portion is searched by using said keyword from the downloaded document.

24. A program according to Claim 21, further comprising a document storing step wherein the
25 document obtained from said information collecting destination site by said information searching step is stored into a document storing unit.

25. A program according to Claim 21, wherein in
said information searching step, the documents in
said registered information collecting destination
5 sites are periodically searched for a predetermined
period of time by using the keyword extracted in said
keyword extracting step.

26. A program according to Claim 21, wherein
10 in said event collecting destination site
registering step, the event collecting destination
site is obtained from an event collecting destination
list server via the network and registered, and
in said information collecting destination site
15 registering step, the information collecting
destination site is obtained from an information
collecting destination list server via the network
and registered.

20 27. A program according to Claim 21, wherein
in said event collecting destination site
registering step, event collecting destination sites
are obtained from another information collecting
apparatus having the same construction via the
25 network and registered, and
in said information collecting destination site
registering step, information collecting destination

sites are obtained from the information collecting apparatus having the same construction via the network and registered.

- 5 28. A program according to Claim 21, wherein in said keyword extracting step, the updating area detected in said event detecting step is morpheme-analyzed and divided every part of speech, thereafter, only proper nouns are extracted, and if the extracted
10 nouns are different from existing keywords registered in a keyword database, the extracted proper nouns are outputted as keywords to said information searching step.
- 15 29. A program according to Claim 21, wherein in said event detecting step, if only new information has been added to the updating area of the event collecting destination site in which the event occurrence has been detected, a history of said new
20 information is stored, and if old information was deleted simultaneously with the addition of the new information to said updating area, the history of said new information and a history of said deleted information are stored and said information notifying
25 unit is enabled to notify the user of the stored histories.

30. A program according to Claim 21, wherein in said event detecting step, if only new information has been added to the updating area of the event collecting destination site in which the event
5 occurrence has been detected, the keyword extracted in said keyword extracting step is stored as a history of said new information, and if old information was deleted simultaneously with the addition of the new information to said updating area,
10 the keyword extracted in said keyword extracting step is stored as a history of said new information and a history of said deleted information and said information notifying unit is enabled to notify the user of said keyword as stored histories.